

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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INFO AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

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FOR IATF

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES TRAN NGO HUNG AND TRAN VAN DUNG

1. MR. R.A. FORDHAM, A PRIVATE AUSTRALIAN CITIZEN WHO WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN SENDING VOLUNTEER AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL TEAMS TO ASSIST IN THE REFUGEE CAMPS ON GUAM, HAS ASKED OUR ASSISTANCE IN THE CASE OF TWO VIETNAMESE BROTHERS, TRAN NGO HUNG AND TRAN VAN DUNG.

2. FORDHAM WAS ATTEMPTING TO ARRANGE FOR BOTH BROTHERS TO STUDY IN AUSTRALIA WHEN SAIGON FELL. HE WAS ASTONISHED TO FIND BOTH BOYS LATER ON GUAM AND HAS SINCE THEN ATTEMPTED WITHOUT SUCCESS TO ARRANGE WITH THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT FOR THEIR ADMISSION INTO AUSTRALIA. DURING THIS PERIOD BOTH BOYS HAVE BEEN SHIFTED TO THE RELOCATION CENTER IN PENNSYLVANIA.

3. ALTHOUGH SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE ALP CABINET, INCLUDING MINISTER FOR EDUCATION KIM BEAZLEY WHOSE COMPASSION AND HUMANITY ON THE REFUGEE ISSUE STAND IN STRIKING CONTRAST TO PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM'S OWN ATTITUDES, HAVE ATTEMPTED TO ASSIST MR. FORDHAM, IN THIS CASE THE GOA STILL REFUSES TO ADMIT THEM ON A PERMANENT BASIS.

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4. MR. FORDHAM HAS A SPONSOR FOR THE TWO BOYS WHO WILL PAY THEIR AIR FARES TO AUSTRALIA AND COVER ALL THEIR COSTS HERE INCLUDING THOSE OF A UNIVERSITY EDUCATION.

5. FORDHAM TELLS US THAT GOA AUTHORITIES ADVISED HIM THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO ALLOW THE BOYS TO ENTER AUSTRALIA IF THEY HAVE A RE-ENTRY PERMIT OR SOME DOCUMENTATION WHICH WILL ENABLE THEM TO RETURN TO AMERICA. FORDHAM BELIEVES THAT ONCE THEY ARE ALLOWED TO ENTER AUSTRALIA THEY WILL BE ALLOWED TO REMAIN UPON COMPLETION OF THEIR STUDIES BUT IF THIS IS NOT THE CASE, HE IS PREPARED TO PAY THEIR RETURN FARES TO THE U.S. HE BELIEVES THAT PROVIDING THE BOYS WITH A UNIVERSITY EDUCATION IN AUSTRALIA WOULD EQUIP THEM WELL FOR FUTURE LIFE EITHER IN THE U.S. OR AUSTRALIA. BOTH BOYS ARE LOCATED AT SECTION 6 BARRACK 12 IN INDIANTOWN GAP, PENNSYLVANIA.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: THE DEPT ADVISE US WHETHER IT IS POSSIBLE TO ISSUE SOME FORM OF U.S. RE-ENTRY PERMITS FOR TRAN NGO HUNG AND TRAN VAN DUNG SO THAT THEY CAN BE DOCUMENTED TO COME TO AUSTRALIA TO ATTEND A UNIVERSITY.
GREEN

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